

5. The method of claim 1, wherein:

- (a) said body of step (a) of claim 1 is within a circular cylindrical chamber; and
- (b) said flowing of step (b) of claim 1 is into said chamber at the circular periphery of said chamber, is radial over said precursor layer to a central axis, and is out of said chamber at said central axis.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein:

- (a) said precursor of step (a) of claim 1 includes oligomers polymerized from silicon alkoxides.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein:

- (a) said body of step (a) of claim 1 is within a chamber; and
- (b) said flowing of step (b) of claim 1 flushes said chamber within a time interval in the range of 1 to 23 seconds.

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application; claims 2-7 are new. Reexamination and reconsideration are hereby requested.

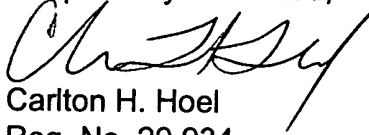
Claim 1 was rejected as anticipated by Smith. The Examiner cited Smith column 4, lines 24-32 for atmospheric control and column 8, lines 44-55 for an ammonia atmosphere as a catalyst.

Applicants reply that Smith column 4, lines 24-32 relates to atmosphere control for limiting evaporation before drying and the control appears to be by confinement in a chamber as in Figs. 16A-16C (see column 26, lines 44-63). Indeed, in a small volume chamber evaporation of volatile solvent quickly ramps up the partial pressure to limit further evaporation.

Further, Smith column 8, lines 44-55 introduces a catalyst such as ammonia into the controlled atmosphere which is limiting evaporation. This introduction thus appears

to be into the small volume chamber for limiting evaporation. Fig.19C (see column 27, lines 53-64) may use adjustment means 44, although not explicit in the description. However, Smith does not suggest the flow of catalyst required by claim 1.

Respectfully submitted,



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